

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting

January 16, 2003

1:00PM

Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Senator Matthews, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Spearman for Supt. Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the December 5 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Special Report

Report of the Study on District Organization: Dr. Miley, Dr. Kelly and Dr. Cowen presented the report on district organization. The report, financed in part by the SC Chamber of Commerce, was the result of a governance study recommendation.

Discussion: Members discussed the report. Mr. Lightsey commended the report as a document that should be used in almost every aspect of SC planning. He asked, "what is the single most important action we can take?" The consultants agreed that placing a quality teacher in every classroom--and keeping him/her there--is the most important action. Senator Matthews indicated that the report documents the "two states" of South Carolina and that the division is getting worse rather than better. He asked for suggestions on remedying the finance system. Dr. Cowen suggested that a poverty factor and a factor that considers density. Dr. Gummerson suggested that the next step should be a study of capacity and how that capacity relates to governance, choice, facilities and transportation. He suggested that comprehensive data on these are needed. Mr. Staton commented that the results of the study affirm the EOC's four objectives.

Mr. Staton indicated that the report has been sent out for comment. He thanked the consultants and commended the quality of their work.

Personal Comments

Senator Matthews thanked the EOC members for their commitment to the accountability system and the EOC's insistence that the system be supported with changes so that all children can achieve. He indicated that the EOC had "exceeded expectations." Mr. Staton thanked Senator Matthews for his service and indicated that the work always was enhanced by his contributions and energy.

IV. **Subcommittee Reports**

- A. **Academic Standards and Assessments**: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the recommendations and moved adoption. The recommendations were adopted and transmitted to the State Department of Education. Representative Walker asked that the staff provide a cost estimate on a diagnostic assessment system aligned with the SC content standards.
- B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms**: Mr. Daniel reported that the Subcommittee had discussed the priority studies for the next year.
- C. **Parental Involvement**: No report
- D. **Public Awareness**: No report; the Subcommittee is meeting after the EOC meeting.
- E. **Administration**: Mr. Stowe reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on *Steps to Prosperity*. He referenced the draft comments distributed to members earlier in the week. Representative Walker asked members to keep an open mind on alternative diplomas. The comments were approved and are to be transmitted to the State Superintendent, the State Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Herriott, chairman of the task force.

Dr. Horne reported on behalf of the staff. He reviewed a recent state ranking document and cited South Carolina's ranking of 36th among states in academic achievement.

Mr. Wilson discussed a memorandum on technical assistance included in the meeting packet. Senator Giese, Mr. Hall and Mr. Lightsey asked questions about the availability of strong teachers in these districts. Mrs. Spearman reiterated the need for quality teaching and SC's efforts in that regard. Members agreed that a staff working group should be formed among the staffs of the SDE, EOC and Governor.

V. **Update on No Child Left Behind**

Mrs. Ellen Still reported on behalf of the State Department of Education. She distributed charts detailing the calculation of adequate yearly progress and the difficulty of PACT relative to NAEP.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.